

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MAYOR BALLARD OUTLINES PLANS FOR 75 MILES OF TRAILS, BIKE LANES BY 2015**

### ***Community Leaders Join Mayor for Opening of 71<sup>st</sup> Street Connector Trail, Newest Component of Citywide Connectivity Initiative Comprising Bikeways, Greenways and Trails***

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today outlined plans for an additional 75 miles of trails and bike lanes throughout the city by 2015, part of his citywide connectivity initiative comprising bikeways, greenways and trails. Mayor Ballard was joined by community leaders, residents, and trail users at Eagle Creek Park for the official opening of the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Connector Trail.

The planned construction for the connectivity initiative will strategically connect with existing infrastructure, neighborhoods, commercial centers, and destination points citywide and will expand Indianapolis' current greenways and bikeways network by nearly two-thirds – achieving a total of 200 miles by 2015. The project will be supported by \$20 million in RebuildIndy funds.

“The 71st Street Connector Trail is a crucial segment of our long-term plan for a network of greenways, bikeways and trails that will enhance the connectivity of our neighborhoods, our city, and even our region,” Mayor Ballard said. “The next 75 miles of infrastructure are planned with the same level of strategic connectivity in mind.”

The 0.8-mile-long 71<sup>st</sup> Street Connector Trail joins up Eagle Creek Park and its extensive trail system to the trail network on nearby Intech Park's 200-acre grounds. The Connector allows pedestrians and cyclists to safely enter Eagle Creek Park from 71<sup>st</sup> Street and provides access to the nearly completed 13 miles of new bike lanes along Lafayette Road and White River Parkway, linking New York Street downtown to the county line.

Federal stimulus grants provided 85 percent of the funding for the Connector Trail, with the City spending roughly one dollar for every six dollars of grant funding applied. The trail incorporates sustainable design elements, including five boardwalks built above wetlands, and features benches constructed from Indiana limestone. The 71<sup>st</sup> Street entrance to Eagle Creek Park is an ideal place to access and experience the new trail.

To view a map of the citywide connectivity initiative, please visit

<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Mayor/Documents/Connectivity%202015.pdf>.

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